



General Assembly

January Session, 2003

Raised Bill No. 6635

LCO No. 4066

Referred to Committee on Human Services

Introduced by:
(HS)

AN ACT CONCERNING RESPITE CARE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2003*) (a) There is established a
2 Lifespan Respite Commission to study the issue of respite care and
3 make recommendations as to how the state can improve upon the
4 availability and delivery of respite care to persons of all ages. Said
5 commission shall prepare an annual report, which shall include, but
6 not be limited to: (1) A comprehensive state-wide respite care plan for
7 persons of all ages, (2) a single point of entry system within state
8 government to: (A) Simplify respite care eligibility determinations, (B)
9 provide expedient access to respite care, and (C) disburse available
10 funds to persons qualifying for respite care, (3) an analysis of any
11 coverage gaps in the delivery and availability of respite care, (4)
12 consumer information on the availability of respite care in this state,
13 (5) recommendations on the availability of private funds for respite
14 care, (6) recommendations to commissioners of appropriate state
15 agencies on the level of funding needed by such agencies to provide
16 respite care to persons traditionally served by such agencies, and (7)
17 recommendations for legislative proposals to improve respite care in

18 the state.

19 (b) The commission shall consist of the following twenty-five
20 members:

21 (1) Three appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
22 one of whom is a provider of birth-to-three early intervention services,
23 one of whom is a member of the Connecticut Home Care Association,
24 and one of whom is a person having expertise in providing respite care
25 to a person with Alzheimer's disease;

26 (2) Three appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one
27 of whom is a representative of the Family Support Council established
28 pursuant to section 17a-219c of the general statutes, one of whom is a
29 person with a disability as defined in section 46a-8 of the general
30 statutes, or a family member of such person, and one of whom is a
31 person having expertise in providing respite care to a person with
32 autism;

33 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
34 Representatives, who is a member of a nonprofit provider group;

35 (4) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
36 Representatives, who is a representative of the Connecticut
37 Developmental Disabilities Council;

38 (5) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who is a
39 physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370 of the general statutes and
40 possesses expertise on respite care issues;

41 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who is a
42 representative of an institution of higher education;

43 (7) Two appointed by the Governor, both of whom are providing
44 respite care to family members;

45 (8) Two appointed by the Connecticut Lifespan Respite Coalition;

46 (9) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing
47 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
48 relating to public health, or their designees;

49 (10) The Commissioners of Social Services, Children and Families,
50 Mental Retardation, Public Health, and Mental Health and Addiction
51 Services, or their designees;

52 (11) The executive director of the Commission on Aging, or the
53 director's designee; and

54 (12) The Child Advocate, or the Child Advocate's designee.

55 (c) Any member of the commission appointed under subdivision (9)
56 of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General
57 Assembly.

58 (d) All appointments to the commission shall be made no later than
59 August 1, 2003. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing
60 authority.

61 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
62 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the
63 commission, from among the members of the commission. Such
64 chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the commission, which
65 shall be held no later than September 1, 2003.

66 (f) The Lifespan Respite Commission shall be within the
67 Department of Social Services for administrative purposes only. Said
68 commission may receive funds to assist in the completion of duties
69 assigned to the commission under subsection (a) of this section.

70 (g) Not later than January 1, 2004, and annually thereafter, the
71 commission shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations
72 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
73 cognizance of matters relating to human services and public health, in
74 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

75 Sec. 2. Subsection (e) of section 2c-2b of the general statutes is
76 amended by adding subdivision (21) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2003*):

77 (NEW) (21) The Lifespan Respite Commission established under
78 section 1 of this act.

79 Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2003*) The sum of one hundred forty thousand
80 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Social Services, from the
81 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2004, for the
82 operational costs of the Lifespan Respite Commission.

83 Sec. 4. (*Effective July 1, 2003*) The sum of ____ dollars is appropriated
84 to the Department of Social Services, from the General Fund, for the
85 fiscal year ending June 30, 2004, for the purpose of expansion of the
86 demonstration program for provision of respite care services for
87 caretakers of Alzheimer's patients established pursuant to section 17b-
88 349e of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2003</i>

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a Lifespan Respite Commission to study and make recommendations on the availability and delivery of respite care services to persons of all ages within this state, and to fund the demonstration program established pursuant to section 17b-349e.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]